

What is claimed is:

1. A system for purging liquid from an external conduit of a bottom loading cargo tank, the system comprising:
 - a coupling device proximate a free end of the conduit;
 - a drain;
 - a return line interconnecting the drain and the cargo tank;
 - a sensor operative to sense liquid in the conduit;
 - a pump in the return line; and
 - a control system operative in response to a signal from the sensor to actuate the pump, wherein the sensor and the drain are located in a module positioned between the free end of the conduit and the coupling device.
2. The system of claim 1 further comprising a vapor return line extending between the cargo tank and the external conduit and connected to the external conduit by a fitting, wherein the fitting is located in the module.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the module comprises a sight glass positioned between the free end of the conduit and the coupling device.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein a sensor and drain are positioned in an annular wall of the sight glass.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the pump is inoperative when a safety device is operated.
6. The system of claim 5, further comprising a valve operable to maintain a vapor vent valve on the cargo tank open when there is fluid in the conduit.
7. The system of claim 6, wherein the valve is operable to close the vapor vent valve when there is no fluid in the conduit.

8. The system of claim 3, wherein the module has a vent formed by a bore in the annual wall of the sight glass and the drains and vent are coaxial.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the drain is dramatically opposed from the vent.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein a vapor vent line interconnects the vent and the vapor vent valve on the cargo tank.

11. The system of claim 4, wherein the sensor has an elongated configuration and is threadably received in a chordal bore intersecting an outer and inner periphery of the module.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the sensor has a tip overlaying the drain when received in the chordal bore.

13. A method for purging liquid from an external conduit of a bottom loading cargo tank, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a coupling device proximate to a free end of the conduit;
providing a drain;
providing a return line interconnecting the drain and the cargo tank;
providing a pump in the return line;
providing a module positioned between the free end of the conduit and the coupling device, said module having a sensor therein operative to sense liquid in the conduit;

activating the pump for pumping liquid from the conduit through the return line to the cargo tank when the sensor senses liquid in the conduit.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising the steps of
providing means for detecting when the cargo tank is loading or delivering liquid and

deactivating the pump for pumping liquid from the conduit through the return line when the cargo tank is loading or delivering liquid.

15. The method of claim 13 further comprising the steps of opening a vapor vent valve on the cargo tank when the sensor senses liquid in the conduit and closing the vapor vent valve when the sensor senses no liquid in the conduit.